



BOROUGH OF SAFFRON WALDEN

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Irene M. Conway Hastilow. M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H., D.C.H., D.Obst.R.C.O.G., M.R.S.H.

(Medical Officer of Health, Saffron Walden Corporation;
Medical Officer of Health, Saffron Walden Rural District Council;
Assistant County Medical Officer of Health, Essex County Council;
School Medical Officer, Essex County Council)

- and the -

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR and HOUSING OFFICER

E.D. Edwards. C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., R.P.

- for the -

Year Ended 31st December, 1958.



Essex

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REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1958.

PREFACE.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of Saffron Walden Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my ninth Annual Report on the Health of the Borough of Saffron Walden.

The estimated mid-year population rose from 7430 in 1957 to 7510 in 1958.

There were 103 births and 110 deaths during the year compared with 117 births and 125 deaths in 1957.

On the whole 1958 was a healthy year. No cases of poliomyelitis, diphtheria or food poisoning occurred during the year.

The scheme for vaccination against poliomyelitis was further developed by the Essex County Council during the year and the response of the public continued to be good.

Statutory action under the National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951, had to be taken in two cases in 1958. Very great difficulty was encountered in obtaining hospital beds for the chronic sick during the year as all the hospitals serving the area had waiting lists. Grave anxiety has been expressed by the general practitioners in the Borough about this matter.

I wish to thank the members of the Council, and particularly the Public Health Committee, for the encouragement given me during the year and the Borough officials for their help and assistance. My particular thanks are due once more to the Borough Public Health Inspector, Mr. E.D. Edwards, and to my Secretary, Miss. A.M. Lamb. The Essex County Council Welfare Foods/Clinic Clerks, Mrs. Sharp and Mrs. Whiffen rendered most loyal assistance during the year and I was deeply appreciative of their help.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

IRENE M. CONWAY HASTILOW.

Medical Officer of Health.

BOROUGH OF SAFFRON WALDEN

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE OF THE BOROUGH

as on 31st December, 1958.

Alderman F.W. Goddard (Chairman)

His Worship the Mayor, Councillor A.L. Godfrey

Alderman G.O. Bradley

Alderman Ellis Rooke, M.B.E., J.P.

Councillor G.T. Barnard (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor H.M. Housden

Councillor C.E. Swan

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:

Irene M. Conway Hastilow, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H., D.C.H., D.Obst.R.C.O.G., M.R.S.H.

Secretary:

Miss. A.M. Lamb.

Borough Public Health Inspector and Housing Officer:

E.D. Edwards, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., R.P.

Public Health Department:

69, High Street,
Saffron Walden,
Essex.

Borough of Saffron Walden

Library.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

IRENE M. CONWAY HASTILOW

M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,
D.C.H., D.Obst., R.C.O.G., M.R.S.H.

Medical Officer of Health



Telephone :
Saffron Walden 2194
Saffron Walden 3031
(at Weekends and in Evenings)

69 HIGH STREET,
SAFFRON WALDEN,
ESSEX

My Ref. :

Your Ref. :

BOROUGH OF SAFFRON WALDEN

Vital Statistics for the year 1958

Live births	103
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	13.7
still births rate per 1,000 population	NIL
still birth rate per 1,000 live & still-births	-
Total live & still-births	103
Infant deaths	1
Infant Mortality rate per 1,000 live births - total	9.7
" " " " " " " - legitimate	do.
" " " " " " " - illegitimate	NIL
Neo-Natal mortality rate per 1,000 live births (first four weeks)	9.7
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births	3.9
Maternal deaths (including abortion)	NIL
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live & still-births	NIL

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SECTION A - Statistics and social conditions of the Borough.

Area: 7,502 acres.

Population (Registrar General's estimate of
resident population mid-year 1958): 7,510

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1958)
according to Rate Books : 2,560

Rateable Value - (April 1st, 1958) : £105,053

Sum represented by Penny Rate (Year ended 31.3.58): £412.7.0d.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

(corrections being made for inward and outward transfers)

	Total	Male	Female	
LIVE BIRTHS: Total :	103	67	36	} Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated population: 13.7
Legitimate :		64	35	
Illegitimate :		3	1	
STILL BIRTHS: Total :	-	-	-	
Legitimate :	-	-	-	
Illegitimate :	-	-	-	
DEATHS : Total :	110	60	50	} Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated population: 14.6

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES 1958.

(Figures in brackets refer to 1957)

<u>Cause of Death.</u>		Male.	Female.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	1 (0)	0 (0)
2.	Tuberculosis, other	0 (0)	0 (0)
3.	Syphilitic Disease	0 (0)	0 (0)
4.	Diphtheria	0 (0)	0 (0)
5.	Whooping Cough	0 (0)	0 (0)
6.	Meningococcal Infections	0 (0)	0 (0)
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	0 (0)	0 (0)
8.	Measles	0 (0)	0 (0)
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	0 (0)	0 (0)
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1 (2)	1 (0)
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4 (4)	1 (1)
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	0 (0)	2 (1)

	Male.	Female.
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0 (0)	0 (3)
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	6 (6)	4 (4)
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0 (0)	0 (0)
16. Diabetes	1 (2)	0 (0)
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	4 (5)	6 (8)
18. Coronary disease, angina	10 (3)	10 (6)
19. Hypertension with heart disease	0 (0)	1 (1)
20. Other heart disease	8 (12)	6 (12)
21. Other circulatory disease	5 (6)	3 (2)
22. Influenza	1 (1)	0 (0)
23. Pneumonia	2 (6)	4 (2)
24. Bronchitis	3 (3)	2 (1)
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1 (0)	0 (1)
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1 (1)	0 (0)
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0 (1)	1 (2)
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	0 (1)	0 (1)
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	4 (1)	0 (0)
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0 (0)	0 (0)
31. Congenital malformations	0 (0)	1 (2)
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	6 (9)	7 (10)
33. Motor vehicle accidents	0 (1)	0 (1)
34. All other accidents	1 (1)	0 (0)
35. Suicide	1 (1)	1 (1)
36. Homicide and operations of war	0 (0)	0 (0)

Deaths from puerperal causes :-

From puerperal sepsis : Nil
 From other puerperal causes : Nil Total : Nil

	M. F.
Deaths of Infants under one year of age: (Legitimate)	1 -
(Illegitimate)	- -
	Total 1.
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age: (Legitimate)	1 -
(Illegitimate)	- -
	Total 1.

All infants per 1,000 live births : 9.7

There was no excessive mortality from any particular disease during the year.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) notified during the year 1958 :

	1958.	1957.
Measles	2	132
Whooping Cough	15	7
Scarlet Fever	-	-
Erysipelas	1	4
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic	-	1
(Non-paralytic	-	-
Virus Encephalitis	-	-
Sonne Dysentery	1	4
Pneumonia	-	5

Diphtheria.

For the ninth year running no cases of diphtheria were notified in the Borough.

Polioomyelitis.

No cases of Poliomyelitis occurred during the year.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

No cases of food poisoning occurred during 1958.

Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases.

Mild outbreaks of diarrhoea and vomiting occurred from time to time during the year. No causal organisms were isolated and the infection was probably of viral origin.

Tuberculosis.

New cases notified and mortality during 1958.

Notifications: Two cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and one case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year and two cases moved into the Borough.

(In 1957 four cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and three cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified and one case moved into the Borough.)

Deaths : One. (No deaths occurred in 1957.)

SECTION B - General provision of Health Services for the Borough.

Laboratory Service - Bacteriological Service. The District is served by the Public Health Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

Ambulance Facilities - A day and night ambulance service is provided by the Essex County Council. The ambulance station is at Saffron Walden and is on the telephone, but, as the driver and attendant may be away from the station answering a call, persons urgently requiring an ambulance are advised to dial '999' and ask for an ambulance; where there is no dialling system it is sufficient to lift the receiver and ask for an ambulance.

Non-emergency calls are only accepted from a hospital, a doctor or nurse, or other competent person such as a duly authorised officer of the Mental Health Service.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL.

Home Nursing and Domiciliary Midwifery - These services are carried out by the Home Nurse/Midwives resident in the Borough.

Domiciliary Visiting by Health Visitors - Two Health Visitors work in the Borough.

Domestic Help Service - Applications for domestic help should be made to the Area Medical Officer, Mid-Essex Division, 75, Springfield Road, Chelmsford.

Care of Expectant Mothers - An Ante-Natal Clinic is held at 2 p.m. on the 1st Tuesday afternoon in each month at 69, High Street, Saffron Walden.

Care of Children up to school age - Child Welfare sessions are held at Saffron Walden every Friday afternoon. Children are immunised against poliomyelitis, diphtheria and whooping cough at the Minor Ailment Clinics. Smallpox vaccinations are not carried out at the clinics as a routine but are performed by the family doctor.

Care of School Children - Regular School Medical Inspections are carried out at all schools. Children are immunised against poliomyelitis, diphtheria and whooping cough with the consent of their parents.

HOSPITALS.

The hospitals are managed by the Regional Hospital Boards and provide medical, surgical and special treatment. The hospitals which serve Saffron Walden population are those in Saffron Walden,

Cambridge and Bishop's Stortford. Cases of Infectious Diseases requiring hospital care are admitted to Brookfields Hospital, Cambridge.

Chest Clinics are available for the population of the Borough. There is one at Saffron Walden General Hospital and one at Castle Hill, Cambridge.

Treatment of Venereal Diseases is provided at the Clinic at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, and at the Herts & Essex Hospital, Bishop's Stortford.

National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951.

Statutory Action was taken under the Act in two cases during the year.

SECTION C - Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough.

I am indebted to the Borough Engineer and Surveyor (Mr. T.W. Cloughton) for the following report :-

Drainage and Sewage Disposal.

Only a very few complaints were received during the year regarding smell from the Sewage Disposal Works which continued to give very good service despite their age and the fact that the settling tank capacity is below the recognised present day standards and the absence of humus tanks on the final effluent outfall.

Arrangements are being made to deal with these problems by constructing additional tank accommodation at the Works and new humus settling tanks on the line of the effluent pipe at Duck Street. It is hoped that these works will be constructed during the year 1959, and when completed there is little doubt that an effluent of the highest possible standard will be obtained.

The small disposal plants at Swards End and Little Walden Council Housing Sites continue to work satisfactorily.

Swimming Bath.

The purification and heating plant continued to operate very satisfactorily and a high standard of purity has been maintained at all times in the pool.

Water Supply.

Throughout the district the standard of water for domestic purposes has been maintained at a very high level.

New Mains have been constructed on the Rowntree Way Extensions linking up Newport Road and Debden Road. This made possible the provision of a new 4" diameter main in Landscape View increasing the pressure and providing an improved supply of water at all times in Landscape View and outlying premises at Herberts Farm and The Roos Farm.

R E P O R T
of the
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
For the Year 1958.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR, 1958.

To: The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Saffron Walden
Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting this, my fourth annual report,
for the year 1958.

As is usual with public health work, the duties carried out during the year were largely of routine nature but it is such work as this which maintains and improves the level of public health and environmental hygiene over the years.

Certain matters of particular interest come readily to mind, such as the floods caused by prolonged rainfall in June of the year. Fortunately the floods in the Borough caused limited damage when compared with other towns and most of the damage was confined to nine houses at Bridge End. As the flood subsided so voluntary helpers came to the aid of the occupants and they are to be praised for the hard work they so willingly carried out, particularly the ladies who cleansed the ground floor rooms of mud and slime. For myself little could be done other than to advise on the drying out of the houses, to arrange for urgent repairs and to provide the occupiers with suitable disinfectants. The condition of these houses is now back to normal but action is contemplated to secure the closure of the house most affected and which is in poor condition and repair.

In my opinion, the most outstanding matter was the commencement of action to secure the repair and improvement of those houses in the Borough which are in poor condition but repairable at reasonable expense. It was an opportune and reasonable time to start this work as the owners of such property are now able to obtain a reasonable rent for their houses and be in a better position to afford the cost of the necessary work. The repair of such houses had been much reduced during and after World War II due to shortage of materials and then high cost of repairs and the low controlled rents, all of which contributed to the present state of disrepair. The carrying out of the necessary repairs will now save many houses which would otherwise soon have needed to be looked at for future slum clearance.

Very little action was taken to close, demolish or repair houses not repairable at reasonable expense as compared to previous

and recent years, particularly 1956 when the houses dealt with in this way totalled thirty-four. This was largely due to the reduction in the building of Council owned housing accommodation. It is hoped that this work will be speeded up in the future.

It could be possible to deal with all those houses needing repair and those requiring closure or demolition within the next five years. It could then be said that all houses in the Borough were in reasonable repair and had the basic amenities, this in itself would be an outstanding and well worthwhile achievement.

In conclusion I offer my sincere thanks to the Public Health and Housing Committees and all other members of the Council for their support and interest during the year.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

E.D. Edwards.

Public Health Inspector and
Housing Officer.

WATER SUPPLIES and WATER SAMPLES.

Main Supplies.

The regular routine sampling of the main supplies in and outside the Town area continued as during previous years. At least one sample of the main supply was taken each week except during absence for holidays. These samples besides being of water supplied by the Saffron Walden Borough Council Water Undertaking also included water supplied to places in the Borough by arrangement with the surrounding Saffron Walden Rural District Council, such as at Audley End Village and a few scattered houses on the Borough boundary.

Of the 87 samples taken only two samples were unsatisfactory. One of these samples was of water from a newly laid main and the other sample was of water in one of the villages. In both cases the contamination present was of a very minor nature and after slightly increasing the rate of chlorination in the areas concerned further samples were reported as satisfactory.

Occasional samples were also taken of water direct from the borehole at the Municipal Waterworks before any treatment or purification and all such samples were highly satisfactory.

Well Supplies.

Wells known to provide water for drinking purposes were sampled at regular intervals or as and when necessary.

The deep well extended by bore at Byrds Farm was found to be liable to contamination and the owner of the property was requested to provide an alternative pure and wholesome water supply. Arrangements are in hand to pipe water from the Town mains supply to the farmhouse and four cottages affected.

The three other wells known to be in use were satisfactory.

Municipal Swimming Pool.

All samples taken were satisfactory and indicated that a high standard of purification was being maintained.

Summary of Bacteriological Samples Taken.

<u>Source.</u>	<u>Number.</u>	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>
Main supply - Town Area.	25	24	1
Main supply - Swards End.	23	22	1
Main supply - Audley End Village and District.	20	20	Nil
Main supply - Little Walden.	19	19	Nil
Municipal Swimming Pool.	4	4	Nil
Well supplies.	14	10	4
Raw water from bore at Municipal Waterworks.	3	3	Nil

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

Sections 39 & 45. Drainage, sanitary conveniences.

2 formal notices requiring the repair and replacement of defective drainage and sanitary accommodation were served and complied with.

Section 83. Filthy or verminous premises.

Three private houses needed to be disinfested due to the presence of fleas and in one case lice were also suspected to be present, two of the houses were also in a filthy condition. All three houses were occupied by elderly persons living alone and it is to be deplored that the first knowledge of these conditions was on the decease or removal to hospital of the persons concerned.

It is realised that there is a natural reluctance to interfere with the lives of others but it is now obvious that these conditions were known to friends and neighbours but no action was taken to improve them except when removal to hospital was imminent.

It need hardly be mentioned that any information of this nature would be dealt with tactfully and discreetly as would the disinfection and cleansing of the premises.

Section 89. Provision of sanitary conveniences at inns, refreshment houses, etc.

The sanitary conveniences at one licensed premises were considered to be inadequate and the brewers concerned were requested to remedy this matter. A scheme is in hand to provide suitable conveniences and to improve the existing at the premises concerned.

Section 92. Nuisances.

51 complaints of alleged insanitary or other conditions prejudicial to health were received, on inspection 40 of these complaints were found to be justified and to warrant action.

As the result of routine inspections and complaints 39 nuisances which could be dealt with under this Section were found to exist and 39 informal notices requiring the abatement of nuisance were served.

Three Abatement Notices were served on an owner requiring the remedy of various defects prejudicial to health at three dwellinghouses and were complied with.

A total of 43 informal and 3 formal notices were complied with during the year and included several notices served prior to 1958.

Section 167. Disinfection of premises, articles, etc.

Six houses were disinfected as a result of infectious diseases. 16 visits and 5 re-visits were made for the purpose of enquiry as to the source of the disease, contacts of the patient, exclusion of school children and food handlers, etc.

Section 259. Nuisances in connection with watercourses, ditches, etc.

A ditch was found to be in a foul and offensive condition due to the unauthorised discharge of effluent from a septic tank taking the drainage of several houses. As the result of informal action the owner discontinued the discharge of effluent and cleansed the ditch with the minimum of delay.

Section 269. Control of moveable dwellings.

There was a reduction in the number of licences issued for the use of moveable dwellings, two modern trailer type caravans were licenced for permanent residential use and one for week-end and holiday use only.

All caravans and sites were maintained in a satisfactory condition, mains water supply and suitable sanitary accommodation being available in each case.

Miscellaneous.

The New Pond, Freshwell Street, situated near residential property, was treated with a suitable insecticide during the warmer months following complaints as to its condition.

THE HOUSING ACT, 1959.

Repair of Dwellings.

During the year it was reported to the Council that there were many houses in the Borough which appeared to be unfit for human habitation but were capable, at reasonable expense, of being rendered fit. It was estimated that 200 houses would need to be dealt with and, together with other public health and housing work, it would take 3 to 4 years to inspect all such houses, followed by the serving of an informal notice together with meetings with owner and builders and then, if necessary, taking formal action to ensure the work was carried out. It was thought there might be dis-satisfaction if, in the initial stages, some owners received notices and others did not. It was suggested that the various owners and agents concerned should be written to as each property was inspected calling attention to the repairs required to render the houses fit for human habitation and urging that they be undertaken to avoid the service of notices under Section 9 of the Act.

A target of 50 houses to be dealt with each year was suggested to and approved by the Housing Committee of the Council.

This important work with its far reaching possibilities was not started until July but by the end of the year progress made was as follows :-

Houses inspected	45
Houses needing repairs and improvements ..	38
Informal notices served	38
Informal notices complied with	3
Houses at which work started or known to be in hand	28

The co-operation of the owners and agents concerned has, on the whole, been excellent. The occupants of the houses being dealt with are highly appreciative of the efforts made by the Council to improve their living conditions and amenities.

Demolition, closure, etc., of unfit houses.

Four houses were reported to the Council as being unfit for human habitation and action was taken in each case to secure the closure of the house. 21 persons were displaced from these houses and houses dealt with at the end of the previous year, all were re-housed by the Council.

In making proposals to the Minister of Housing & Local Government as required by the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, it was stated that 31 houses would be or were in clearance areas and 51 individual houses would be demolished within five years. This period expires in 1960 and the progress made to the end of 1958 was as follows :-

Houses in Clearance Areas and now demolished ..	5
Houses reported as unfit and subject to formal action by the Council	56

Of the 56 individual houses reported, 11 have been demolished, 11 have been closed, 8 are subject to undertakings and are either vacant or have limited use. The remaining 26 houses have been made fit in all respects, often with the aid of an improvement grant, and have produced 17 housing units.

Although slum clearance has been reduced during 1957/8 it appears that the proposals made by the Council could still be completed within the prescribed time. The most obvious choice for future slum clearance is Middle Square, Castle Street, where at least 11 houses could be included in a Clearance Area.

It is of particular interest to note that slum-clearance has, in fact, produced 17 housing units of high standard.

Overcrowding.

No cases of statutory overcrowding were found during the year and no cases are outstanding from previous years.

There are now very few families living in cramped conditions as compared with previously.

The Rent Act, 1957.

A moderate number of enquiries were being received at the beginning of the year from tenants and owners as to their position under the Act but as time progressed these enquiries steadily diminished due, it is assumed, to the smoothing out of any initial difficulties or lack of agreement between owner and tenant.

It is readily apparent that many tenants of controlled houses do not realise their position under the Act in relation to future repairs that may be necessary to the house they occupy. The general impression is that having taken the prescribed steps on the initial notice of rent increase the tenant himself can do nothing regarding future repairs and a 'now or never' attitude was quite common on receipt of the notice of rent increase.

This is quite erroneous as the controlled tenant is still protected under the present legislation and the procedure is still the same in the future should the need for repairs arise. The first step is the completion of 'Form G' (Notice by Tenant to Landlord of Defects of Repair) followed by, if necessary, an application six weeks later to the local authority for a Certificate of Disrepair. If a Certificate of Disrepair is issued the rent the tenant pays for his house must not exceed $1\frac{1}{3}$ times the Gross Value of the house (plus any additions for rates, services or improvements) while the defects remain unremedied. As the rents of controlled houses have generally been increased to twice the Gross Value the tenant would have the benefit of a reduced rent while awaiting the remedy of defects to the house he occupies.

5 applications for Certificates of Disrepair were received during the year but only one Certificate was issued as an undertaking to carry out the listed repairs was received from each owner in the four other cases. Three Certificates were cancelled on completion of the listed repairs.

General.

14 Council Dwellings and 25 Private Dwellings were completed and occupied during the year, there now being approximately 2560 dwellings in the Borough.

81 inspections, 28 re-inspections and 71 other visits were made in connection with the Housing Acts.

FACTORIES and OUTWORKERS.

10 inspections were made of premises registered as factories and informal action was taken in one case to secure the cleansing and repair of sanitary conveniences at a factory.

Only 5 persons were registered as outworkers during the year.

The prescribed particulars on the administration of, and as required by the Factories Act, is appended.

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

17 inspections of shops were made under this Act to enforce the provisions relating to temperature, ventilation and provision of sanitary conveniences in shops.

Action was taken in one instance to secure the provision of sanitary accommodation and sufficient means of ventilation in a shop.

In order to avoid the confusion that seems to arise it should be noted that I am not responsible for the enforcement of that part of the Shops Act, 1950, relating to hours of closing, half day and Sunday closing, working hours of young persons, certain welfare facilities, etc., etc.,

FOOD PREMISES, MILK, DAIRIES and FOOD INSPECTION.

Food Premises.

There are 92 food premises and an average of 16 food vehicles and stalls operating in the Borough. The types are as follows :-

Restaurants and Cafes	..	..	..	..	8
School and factory Canteens	..	..	..	..	8
Hotels and Public Houses	..	..	..	..	25
Butchers	..	..	..	..	6
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	3
Bakers and Confectioners shops	..	..	..	..	4
Wet Fish	..	..	..	..	1
Wet and Fried Fish	..	..	..	..	2
Fried Fish	..	..	..	..	1
Grocers	..	..	..	..	11
General stores (grocery, sweets, etc.)	..	..	..	..	12
Sweet Factory	..	..	..	..	1
Sweet Shops	..	..	..	..	7
Greengrocers	..	..	..	..	3
Mobile butchers shops	..	..	..	..	4
Fish Stalls	..	..	..	..	1
Mobile Fish and Chip Fryers	..	..	..	..	2
Sweet Stalls	..	..	..	..	1
Mobile Grocery shops	..	..	..	..	2
Grocery Stalls	..	..	..	..	1
Fruit and Vegetable stalls	..	..	..	..	4 (average)
Mobile greengrocers	..	..	..	..	1

12 of the above premises continue to be registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955, for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed or preserved food. A total of 30 premises were registered under Section 158 of the Essex County Council Act, 1933, for the sale and storage of ice-cream or similar commodity and 2 of these registrations were new. One manufacturer of ice-cream continued to be registered until business was discontinued when registration was cancelled.

35 inspections were made of registered premises, 65 inspections of other food premises and 15 inspections of stalls and vehicles.

The general standard of food premises within the Borough is good and some are well above the average as regards equipment and finish of interior and working surfaces.

It has been the food handler him or herself to whom attention has needed to be given during the year with particular regard to certain unhygienic practices or habits. In all fairness it must be pointed out that the majority of food handlers appreciate their responsibilities to the community they serve and it is unfortunate that they may be judged on the standard of the minority in their midst. In turn this minority has been further reduced by my action as and when their faults have been discovered. It is obvious that many bad practices may be carried out in my absence and it is the proprietor or manager, as the case may be, who ensures and maintains the level of hygiene in any food premises. As and when faults in handling were found so note was taken for the occurrence of future faults and, on being known to and recognised by the food handler concerned, he or she was aware that any omissions etc., would not go unnoticed in the future.

Typical bad practices found and discontinued during the year were :-

- a. placing of unprotected meat carcasses on dirty floor of carriers van which was dirty due to foot traffic from the gutter and elsewhere.
- b. licking of thumb and/or forefinger to pick up wrapping paper or paper bags.
- c. use of fixed wash hand basins intended for personal washing only as sinks for the washing of food.
- d. not wearing clean protective clothing and clean and washable head covering when carrying meat carcasses on shoulder.
- e. infrequent changing of soiled towels for clean towels provided for drying of hands after washing.
- f. smoking when handling or in the proximity of unwrapped food.

It is f. above that is the cause for most concern, not only from ash being dropped onto food but the fact that the hand is to and from the mouth which in turn touches the food handed to the customer. This aspect is particularly serious when thought is given to possible diseases, chronic or otherwise, which may be passed on and spread in this way.

Milk and Dairies.

The Milk (Special Designations)(Specified Areas) Order, 1958, provided that on and from 14th April, 1958, the Borough of Saffron Walden together with certain other districts would form a Specified Area for the sale of milk. This meant that on and after this date no milk other than milk bearing a special designation could be sold by retail in the Borough.

A local producer/retailer who had retailed undesignated milk in the past gave up business as a result of the Order.

All types of specially designated milk are sold in the Borough and are obtainable from one or both of the two milk dealers who are licensed to deal in such milk.

All milk samples were satisfactory and were as follows :-

	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)		
Milk.	4	Nil
Pasteurised Milk.	2	Nil
Sterilised Milk.	2	Nil
Ungraded Milk.	1	Nil

Ice-cream Samples & Ice-cream Premises.

Samples taken for bacteriological examination were reported as follows :-

	<u>Grade I.</u>	<u>Grade II.</u>	<u>Grade III.</u>	<u>Grade IV.</u>
Ice-cream manufacturer	4	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ice-cream retailers	11	Nil	Nil	Nil
(ice-cream produced outside the Borough)				

A further improvement was made in the grade of ice-cream produced by a local manufacturer but business was discontinued during the first half of the year. Since that date the only ice-cream sold was that produced by the large well known manufacturers, all samples of which were first grade.

Food Inspection.

27 visits were made for the purpose of examining various foodstuffs to determine whether or not they were fit for human

consumption. In all cases the food was surrendered to me voluntarily and was either collected for salvaging and processing by a pig and poultry keeper for feeding to his stock or properly disposed of elsewhere.

The types and quantities of food surrendered were as follows :-

<u>Tinned Food.</u>			<u>Other Food.</u>		
Fruit	158	lbs.	Wet Fish	147	lbs.
Meat	140	lbs.	Meat	419	lbs.
Vegetables	167	lbs.	Bacon	25 $\frac{1}{4}$	lbs.
Milk	88	pints (equivalent)	Ham	3	lbs.
Fish	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs.			
Preserves	10	lbs.			
Cream	6	ozs.			
Soup	2	lbs.			
Ham	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs.			

MEAT INSPECTION.

The total animals slaughtered for food in the Borough increased during the year although the number of cattle and calves decreased. A number of pigs slaughtered and dressed in the Borough are sold by wholesale in other districts and it is believed that the percentage of pigs sold by wholesale will increase in the future. It is also interesting to note that the number of sheep slaughtered and dressed was nearly twice that for 1957.

Comparative figures are as follows :-

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>	<u>Sheep.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Goats.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
1953 (M.o.F. Control)	115	2004	2962	327	-	6408
1954 (M.o.F. Control)	760	2228	2180	210	-	5378
1955. (Full year private slaughtering).	475	1724	704	40	-	2943
1956.	627	2616	544	36	-	3823
1957.	550	2599	470	41	3	3663
1958.	519	2818	813	15	3	4168

Meat inspection continued to be the duty by which most of

my time was taken and included some work outside normal working hours. Until June, 1958, I was also responsible for the dead-weight certification of pigs on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food but from this date the Ministry decided to arrange for this duty to be carried out by their own officials. In actual fact although the amount of meat inspection increased, time spent at the slaughterhouses continued much as before due to the certification of pigs being carried out by others.

My thanks are due to the management and employees at both slaughterhouses for their ready co-operation and assistance throughout the year which has done much to lighten the work of meat inspection and ensure no waste or loss of time for the benefit of all concerned.

As before, every animal slaughtered at each slaughterhouse was inspected before release for human consumption.

Details of the numbers and types of animals where some part of the carcase or offal was condemned are elsewhere in this report and it may appear that the percentage of such animals is high. In reality the amount of meat and/or offal condemned formed only a very small proportion of the meat and offal released for human consumption. Approximately 345 tons of meat and offal was produced from the slaughterhouses in the Borough and of this total weight only 0.68% needed to be condemned as being unfit for human food.

The incidence of tuberculosis in cattle was exactly the same as for the previous year but rose by 0.8% in the case of pigs. The main reason for rejection of part of the offal was due to parasitic affections of the liver, particularly in the case of cattle and pigs. Normally such affections are not detrimental to the quality of the carcase.

Although comparatively low, the number of beef carcasses affected with cysticercus bovis increased by half. This parasitic condition could be controlled elsewhere but it appears that it is only at the slaughterhouse that any effective control and reduction in the incidence of this condition is likely to be achieved. Such results would be due to careful and detailed examination of each carcase in the manner as recommended.

Comparative amounts of meat and offal rejected are as follows :-

1953.	9 tons.	1 cwt.	3 qrs.	24 lbs.
1954.	5 tons.	15 cwts.	2 qrs.	20 lbs.
1955.	1 ton.	16 cwts.	0 qrs.	5 lbs.
1956.	2 tons.	4 cwts.	2 qrs.	9 lbs.
1957.	1 ton.	19 cwts.	2 qrs.	3 lbs.
1958.	2 tons.	6 cwts.	2 qrs.	9 lbs.

Rejected meat and offal was collected for reduction into various commercial products.

The conditions at both slaughterhouses were reasonable during the year, there being some natural reluctance to carry out any extensive improvements in the structure and equipment until the future of such slaughterhouses and the legal standards and requirements for such premises were made known. The Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, clarified the position and the owners of both slaughterhouses now know they can proceed with the alterations and improvements they had in mind to the mutual benefit of all concerned.

562 visits were made to slaughterhouses for the purpose of meat inspection.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

A maintenance treatment for the destruction of rats in the Town sewers was carried out during May, test bait being laid in selected inspection chambers over the whole sewered area. The incidence of rats was found to be low and further baiting was confined to those inspection chambers where test bait had been taken and to other inspection chambers in the immediate vicinity. Of the 295 sewer inspection chambers known to exist 53 were test baited and/or pre-baited. 14 poison baits were laid of which 12 were completely taken and replenished, 1 partly taken and 1 not at all.

The underground culvert passing under the Town and known as the Slade was also baited at the same time as the Town sewers. This culvert, some 615 yards in length, was found to support rats in moderate numbers and bait was taken much more freely than in the sewers. In view of this the Slade and its approaches were baited regularly throughout the year. One above ground infestation was found to be caused by rats entering the cellar of the business premises concerned by means of a long disused drain communicating with the Slade. It was arranged for the drain to be removed and for the connection with the Slade to be sealed. Having now been through the Slade on several occasions with the rat-catcher and noted the large number of drain connections that exist, I am surprised that more above-ground rat infestations do not originate from the Slade. The majority of the drains appear to be disused but as they cannot be readily checked as being effectively sealed they provide a potential source of above-

ground rat infestation.

The day to day destruction of rats and mice in business premises, houses, roadside banks, ditches, open ground, etc., appears to be never ending. Direct evidence of the work done is provided by the number of bodies picked up but it should be remembered that many bodies are not seen and hence not collected.

There were 212 above ground infestations recorded by which 297 premises and land areas were affected. The Council's refuse tip continued to be well infested with rats although large numbers were killed by various methods. No great improvement or deterioration in conditions at the tip were observed.

Besides acting as full time rodent operator Mr. F. Richardson also dealt with various smaller matters, such as the treating of the New Pond, Freshwell Street, with insecticide and the removal and destruction of 24 wasps nests.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The remaining provisions of the Clean Air Act, 1956, came into operation on the 1st June, 1958, including Section 1 of the Act regarding the prohibition of dark smoke from chimneys.

The Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) Regulations, 1958, also came into operation on the same date and, in effect, allowed in the case of one furnace the emission of dark smoke for an aggregate of 10 minutes in any period of 8 hours including limited emissions of black smoke during normal operation of the furnaces. It had been hoped and expected that any permitted emission of dark smoke would be over a much shorter period than 8 hours in order to allow the ready use of the Regulations in practice. It now appears possible that an observation for the emission of excess smoke from a chimney could last the full 8 hours whereas observations of 30 minutes duration were usual previously.

An example of this comes readily to mind. If during the first hour of observation of smoke from the chimney of one furnace there were emissions of smoke in excess of dark for, say 9 minutes, it would be necessary to continue the observation until further emissions totalling more than 1 minute occurred. It could be possible to continue the observation for another 7 hours with the object of proving an offence but if, in fact, there were no further emissions, no offence would have been caused.

Fortunately legal action is usually taken as a last resort

so such observations are not likely to occur very often but it is, in my opinion, a pity that such useful and welcome legislation as the Clean Air Act should be weakened by Regulations that are difficult to administer in practice.

In my experience, persuasion, explanation and, if possible, assistance, are by far the best methods of obtaining the co-operation of the person who is responsible for the emission of excess smoke. This person is usually the stoker. Most managements of the plants concerned are smoke conscious as it is now generally appreciated and realised that smoke represents wasted fuel and low furnace efficiency with unnecessary waste of time, material and money.

In order that I could obtain wider, more detailed up-to-date knowledge of the problems of combustion processes and atmospheric pollution I undertook, with the Council's permission, a course in London with the object of obtaining the Smoke Inspector's Certificate of the Royal Society of Health. At the time of writing this report the course had been completed and had already proved to be beneficial. The course in itself was highly technical and, amongst other things, covered all types of furnaces, fuels and the efficient use of same. In obtaining the co-operation of stokers and others it is most necessary to show that the difficulties of the plant they operate are appreciated and that advice can be given as to the correct methods for obtaining efficient and smokeless conditions.

Although smoke only has been mentioned as a cause of atmospheric pollution it should be remembered that such pollution can be caused in various other ways by the emission of dust, grit, fume and invisible gases, all of which are provided for in varying degree in the Clean Air Act.

Oil as a fuel is being increasingly used and normally does not produce any noticeable quantity of smoke. It does, however, produce more invisible pollution than solid fuel in the form of sulphur dioxide which in turn is detrimental to health, buildings, materials etc. No practicable solution exists at present for the removal of this pollutant although very costly equipment with high operating and maintenance costs has been used in a very limited number of power stations.

The Alkali, &c. Works Order, 1958, removed the Council's control of atmospheric pollution at the local gasworks to the Alkali Inspectorate. No problems have arisen at the gasworks for many years and it is not anticipated that any problems will occur in the future as a result of this change.

HOUSING APPLICATIONS and TENANCIES.

The number of new applications for Council accommodation was 71 as compared with 75 in the previous year.

A summary of the applications outstanding at the end of the year is as follows :-

Applications from :

Single persons	15	(14)
Single elderly persons	21	(13)
Married elderly couples	20	(9)

Married couples with :

No children	46	(48)
One child	46	(42)
Two children (same sex)	6	(5)
Two children (opposite sex)	9	(7)
Three children (same sex)	2	(2)
Three children (opposite sex)	6	(7)
Four children (same sex)	2	(1)

TOTAL APPLICANTS	<u>173</u>	<u>(148)</u>
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(Figures in brackets refer to 1957).

As will be seen from the above summary, there is still a great need for Council housing accommodation, particularly for elderly persons.

The accommodation occupied during the year was as follows :-

	<u>Families.</u>
New accommodation let for first time	14
Existing accommodation let to applicants and to families displaced by slum clearance	21
Council tenants transferred to existing vacant accommodation	8
Tenants of this Council allowed to change tenancies with a) other tenants of this Council	6
b) tenants of other local authorities	5
	<u>54</u>
New tenancies	<u>54</u>

Council owned accommodation at the end of the year consisted of the following :-

Pre-war houses and flats	178
Pre-fabricated Arcon bungalows	20
Post-war houses and flats	<u>452</u>
TOTAL	<u><u>650</u></u>

There were no new dwellings under construction.

42 visits were made in connection with housing applications and 109 visits in connection with matters affecting Council tenants.

A new edition of the Tenants' Handbook was compiled, printed and issued during the year. A copy was given to each existing tenant and one copy to each new tenant.

Every endeavour was made to provide useful information for the maintenance of Council accommodation to the benefit of the Council and the tenant and his family. General information on local matters, health services, the Council, public health etc., was also included.

This handbook was printed and issued without any direct cost to the Council but it is wondered whether, in fact, it was worth the time and trouble involved in its production. Not one tenant has indicated that the handbook has been useful to himself or family.

SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION.

INSPECTIONS and VISITS.

A. Public Health.

Public Health Act	211
Re-visits	112
Moveable Dwellings	4
Filthy and/or verminous dwellings	11
Shops Act	17
Factories	10
Miscellaneous Visits	71
Smoke Abatement	3
Waste Foods Order	4

B. Housing.

Housing Acts	81
Re-visits	28
Miscellaneous Visits	71
Enquiries into applications for Council Houses	42
Council House Tenancies	109

C. Infectious Disease.

Enquiries into cases	16
Re-visits	5
Disinfections carried out	6

D. Meat Inspection.

Visits to Slaughterhouses	562
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E. Food Premises and Food Hygiene.

Food Surrender	27
Registered Premises	35
Dairies and milk distributors	4
Other Food Premises	65
Food Stalls and vehicles	15

F. Miscellaneous.

Rodent Control	37
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TOTAL INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

1546

DEFECTS REMEDIED AND NUISANCES ABATED.

(Does not include Shops, Factories or Food Premises).

General.

Accumulations removed	..	..	..	..	1
Dustbins supplied or renewed	..	..	..	..	2
Miscellaneous nuisances abated	..	..	..	..	2
Nuisances from keeping of animals abated	..	..	..	..	1
Ditches and watercourses cleansed	..	..	..	..	1

Drainage.

Drains repaired or improved	..	..	..	..	8
Obstructed drains cleared	..	..	..	..	1
Water-closets repaired or improved	..	..	..	..	7
Flushing apparatus provided or repaired	..	..	..	..	4
Sinks provided or renewed	3

Water Supply.

Mains supply provided to houses	2
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Repairs to Dwellinghouses.

Chimneys re-constructed	3
External brickwork and rendering					
repaired - houses	..	..	..	..	6
Roofs repaired	..	..	..	..	30
Rainwater pipes and gutters repaired					
or renewed	..	..	..	..	15
Floors renewed or repaired - rooms	..	..	..	..	14
Wall and ceiling plaster repaired - rooms	..	..	..	..	35
Dampness remedied - rooms	..	..	..	..	30
Doors and windows repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	46
Lighting and ventilation improved - rooms	..	..	..	..	1
Fireplaces repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	6
Staircases repaired	..	..	..	..	5
Food Stores provided	..	..	..	..	1
Yard paving repaired or renewed - houses	..	..	..	..	2
Dilapidated outbuildings demolished	..	..	..	..	1

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act 1937.

Part I of the Act.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises.	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted.
(1) Factories in which Sect. 1,2,3,4 & 6, are to be enforced by Local Authority.	3	1	-	-
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sect.7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	52	9	1	-
(3) Other Premises in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	55	10	1	-

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation(S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences(S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences not including offences relating to Outwork.	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	1	1	-	1	-

Part VIII of the Act.

OUTWORK.

(Sections 110 and 111)

Section 110.

No. of out-workers in August
list required by Sect.110 (1)(c)

No. of cases of default in
sending lists to Council.

No. of prosecutions for
failure to supply lists.

Section 111.

No. of instances of work in
unwholesome premises.

Notices served.

Prosecutions.

TOTAL

Nature of Work.	
Wearing Apparel.	
Making etc.	Cleaning & washing.
5	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
5	-

Table 1	
Summary of the Results of the Study	
Year	Number of Cases
1915	10
1916	15
1917	20
1918	25
1919	30
1920	35
1921	40
1922	45
1923	50
1924	55
1925	60
1926	65
1927	70
1928	75
1929	80
1930	85
1931	90
1932	95
1933	100
1934	105
1935	110
1936	115
1937	120
1938	125
1939	130
1940	135
1941	140
1942	145
1943	150
1944	155
1945	160
1946	165
1947	170
1948	175
1949	180
1950	185
1951	190
1952	195
1953	200
1954	205
1955	210
1956	215
1957	220
1958	225
1959	230
1960	235
1961	240
1962	245
1963	250
1964	255
1965	260
1966	265
1967	270
1968	275
1969	280
1970	285
1971	290
1972	295
1973	300
1974	305
1975	310
1976	315
1977	320
1978	325
1979	330
1980	335
1981	340
1982	345
1983	350
1984	355
1985	360
1986	365
1987	370
1988	375
1989	380
1990	385
1991	390
1992	395
1993	400
1994	405
1995	410
1996	415
1997	420
1998	425
1999	430
2000	435
2001	440
2002	445
2003	450
2004	455
2005	460
2006	465
2007	470
2008	475
2009	480
2010	485
2011	490
2012	495
2013	500
2014	505
2015	510
2016	515
2017	520
2018	525
2019	530
2020	535
2021	540
2022	545
2023	550
2024	555
2025	560
2026	565
2027	570
2028	575
2029	580
2030	585
2031	590
2032	595
2033	600
2034	605
2035	610
2036	615
2037	620
2038	625
2039	630
2040	635
2041	640
2042	645
2043	650
2044	655
2045	660
2046	665
2047	670
2048	675
2049	680
2050	685
2051	690
2052	695
2053	700
2054	705
2055	710
2056	715
2057	720
2058	725
2059	730
2060	735
2061	740
2062	745
2063	750
2064	755
2065	760
2066	765
2067	770
2068	775
2069	780
2070	785
2071	790
2072	795
2073	800
2074	805
2075	810
2076	815
2077	820
2078	825
2079	830
2080	835
2081	840
2082	845
2083	850
2084	855
2085	860
2086	865
2087	870
2088	875
2089	880
2090	885
2091	890
2092	895
2093	900
2094	905
2095	910
2096	915
2097	920
2098	925
2099	930
2100	935

The following table shows the results of the study for the years 1915 to 1920. The number of cases for each year is as follows: 1915, 10; 1916, 15; 1917, 20; 1918, 25; 1919, 30; 1920, 35.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle Excluding Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	519	Nil	15	813	2818	Nil
Number inspected	519	Nil	15	813	2818	Nil
<u>All diseases and conditions except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	7	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	124	Nil	2	12	263	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	23.9%	Nil	13.3%	1.5%	9.6%	Nil
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	15	Nil	Nil	Nil	83	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	3.1%	-	-	-	2.9%	Nil
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	11	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

